

Relicensing Study – R2 Recreation Safety Assessment

Workgroup Presentation




Introduction


- ◆ Need for the Study / Objective
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ Findings / Public Safety Considerations



Need for Study / Study Objective

- ◆ FERC requires a comprehensive recreation plan. A part of the plan must address recreation-safety related issues.
 - ◆ Identify current and historic recreation-related safety incidents and trends.
 - ◆ Identify potential management considerations related to recreation safety in the study area.
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Methodology

- ◆ Interviews with safety-related personnel.
 - ◆ Recreation Survey – Questions related to recreation safety.
 - ◆ Review of Incident Reports and Accident Statistics.
 - ◆ Field Observations.
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Methodology (continued)

- ◆ Cell Phone Coverage / Radio Communications.
- ◆ Review of Statewide and Study Area Wildland Fire Publications.



Methodology (continued)


- ◆ Compile results and make recommendations for potential consideration.



Findings / Recreation Public Safety Considerations

- ◆ Recreation Public Safety Considerations are potential management options to address identified safety issues. Findings expressed in this report are those of the authors. The findings do not represent the official position of DWR.

Accident and Incident Reports and Statistics are Inconsistent

- ◆ Consider better coordination of incident and accident reporting to allow for a comprehensive analysis of accidents and incidents.
 - ◆ Could be carried out by the Area Control Center (ACC) – would require coordination with several study area land management and public safety agencies.
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Cellular Phone Coverage is Intermittent or Poor at Some Study Area Sites and Areas

- Consider alerting providers of various limitations in coverage and work with these providers to improve coverage.



Public Safety Issues at Afterbay Outlet Fishing Area

- ◆ Consider providing additional land-based DFG patrols. These patrols could concentrate on the Afterbay Outlet area, especially during the fishing season.



Daily Fluctuations in Water Depth at Thermalito Afterbay are a Potential Grounding Hazard for Boaters

- ◆ Consider placing additional buoys in potentially hazardous boating areas.
- ◆ Consider re-emphasizing the current visitor management program and/or modify, if necessary.




Visitor Education and Management

- ◆ Issues include boaters following too close, boat operators not obeying speed regulations, alcohol use, boaters not wearing PFDs, and conflicts with PWC.



Visitor Education and Management (Continued)

- ◆ Consider re-emphasizing the current visitor management (Interpretation and Education) programs. This includes additional education programs highlighting visitor safety issues. Also, additional signage regarding hunting and fishing regulations could be posted.
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OWA Does Not Have a Wildfire Evacuation Plan

- ◆ Consider developing a Fire Evacuation Plan for recreation users could be developed.
- ◆ Alternatively, consider closing the OWA to public use during periods of high or extreme fire hazard.



Conclusion

◆ Any Questions???

